Somethings wrong with my Spruce tree top Part I

Once again it is that time of year when we see the top of some Spruce trees curl and die. I thought perhaps we might discuss what this is and what can be done. This injury is caused by an insect called Spruce Terminal Weevil. Most customers who call upon seeing this are worried that it will work its way down and kill the whole tree. This however is not the case. For right now the best thing to do is cut out the dead portion below the damaged leader, bag it and put it in the trash. We suggest this because right now those leaders are full of weevil larva that will over the summer change and become a bunch more adult weevils. Getting rid of the top gets rid of a whole population of baby weevils in other words. The next thing to do is decide if you want to wait and let Mother Nature do her thing and turn up new tops for you or help her speed this process up. If it is a yes to helping, you need to bend one branch from below the top you removed and tie it up by a long stick, such as bamboo. I suggest this on young trees that are low and accessible. If you do not do this, Mother Nature will turn up the next whorl of branches below the injury on her own over the rest of the year. However, next season you will need to pick the most central one and subordinate prune the others. We gave up staking except for a few instances due to the challenges and follow-ups needed. The height is another consideration. Addressing terminal weevil on young accessible trees is one thing but what about a really tall spruce in the back yard? This answer and much more on the topic next week!

For further questions, quotes and consultations give us a call today. For more on Grace Tree Service check us out at gracetreeservice.com.